

This summer, Americans are facing record high prices for gasoline. There are some who think we can lower prices by diverting oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is shortsighted and wrong. Not only would releasing the oil have a short-term, negligible impact on prices, but also it would wipe out our reserves, leaving us vulnerable to terrorist attacks targeting pipelines and oil transportation.

This could raise oil prices beyond anything we want to imagine.

Further, in 1973, America was 30 percent dependent on foreign oil. Today, that number has doubled to an all-time high of nearly 60 percent. If we continue down this path without new supplies and conservation, we will only increase our vulnerability to foreign manipulation of oil prices. Our only response must be to reduce, not increase, our foreign dependency.

We must develop a three-point plan to reduce this dependence on lower fuel prices—a plan that includes conservation, diversification of energy sources and further exploration of domestic energy.

We can start with conservation—fuel efficient vehicles, decreasing energy use in federal buildings by 20 percent, and improved incentives for conservation products will help to reduce energy demands.

We must diversify our energy sources. Our own coal resources can provide hundreds of years of energy. Clean coal power plants can alleviate environmental concerns with older plants.

And we can make better use of nuclear energy, which currently provides only 20 percent of the Nation's electricity. We must explore more domestic energy sources.

The resources are here, along with environmentally sound ways to tap into them. There are 16 million acres in ANWR and proposals to drill there would include only an area equivalent to the size of a hand on a football field.

High fuel prices and a dangerous dependence on foreign oil are a problem for all Americans.

It adds costs to fuel and goods. We cannot afford to let this become a partisan issue, nor should we engage in shortsighted solutions that in the end are not solutions at all.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. AND CAROL A. GIALI ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a recent achievement of two Californians who, in celebrating their 50th year of marriage, have provided an inspiring example to all Americans. On May 8, 1954, in Westwood, California, Joseph Peter Giali, first generation American (both his parents were born in Italy), married Carol Amy Johnson (one of her parents was born in Sweden, the other parent was a first generation American from Sweden). With not much more at the beginning to call their own except their marriage, their faith in God and the vast opportunities afforded by this great country, Joe and Carol have come a long way in their 50 years of marriage. Their

first child was born a year and a day after their marriage and five more children followed quickly thereafter. All six children are married and productive citizens and Joe and Carol have 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild (with surely more to follow).

Joe served his country in the Marines. After getting married and starting the family, Joe attended Loyola University in Los Angeles on the G.I. Bill and graduated with honors. He worked in the furniture industry for almost 40 years. Carol ran the household and tirelessly provided a loving and nurturing home environment for her husband and kids. Throughout their incredible life together, Joe and Carol have dedicated their lives, their children's lives and their home to God, country and the Golden Rule.

Wherever they have lived, Joe and Carol have been strong and active supporters of their church. They have also strongly supported their country, and so have their kids. And of course this support has been longstanding, as Joe and Carol's marriage has lasted through 10 Presidential administrations from Eisenhower to George W. Bush. Joe and Carol and their family have been truly blessed by the first 50 years of this magical marriage, and here's hoping that the best is yet to come. On behalf of my colleagues, let me join the many friends and admirers in wishing Joe and Carol and their family all good fortune during the next 50 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER'S DAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, June 20, is Father's Day in America. In honor of this nationally recognized day I take special privilege to salute Fathers and more importantly fatherhood.

I appreciate the millions of fathers that are active parents and advocates for their children's well-being. When fathers value their children, for their true selves, they give their children the confidence to use their talents in the world.

A father can be one of the two most important people in a child's life. For example, when advertisers spend billions to convince daughters that they must look a certain size and dress a certain way, it is the father who reminds her that she is a whole and unique person that warrants respect, beauty and dignity in her own right.

When society tells our males that success is measured by the car, house and clothes you have, it is the Father's role model that impact the values and integrity of their sons.

Sociologists and psychologists now proclaim what we as human beings already knew—Fatherhood is not always easy.

"Father Knows Best", a popular TV show of the 50s, promoted the image of an intuitive male parent who always knew just the right thing to say and just the right lesson to teach but parenting is not easy.

The benefits of a steady income and the things money buy pale in comparison to the love and emotional support that all children need and deserve to help them develop as whole adults.

Our institutions and government entities at every level should promote public policies that remove barriers to responsible fatherhood.

However, I suspect that we fall short, particularly, in the area of incarcerated fathers, unemployed fathers and fathers outside of the home.

We must encourage fathers in real responsibility, not blame them for who and what they are and enable fathers to lead healthy and productive lives and create positive bonds with their children.

Our laws, institutions and public policies should do much to:

Promote public education concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;

Assist men in preparation for the legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;

Promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth;

Encourage fathers, regardless of marital status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of their children;

Establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relations with their children, regardless of their marital and financial status; and,

Integrate federal, state and local services available for families.

Fathers need the building blocks of community, employment, and parenting skills to be the best Father they can be—because Father doesn't always know best.

Happy Father's Day.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN GILBERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. John Gilbert, a very special young man who exemplifies the finest qualities of citizenship and sportsmanship.

John competed against athletes from across the Nation for a position on the American junior basketball team. He will join his teammates in representing the United States of America at the Australian junior basketball championship in Sydney, Australia.

John's accomplishments are particularly exceptional, given that he is a member of the Nebraska Red Dawgs wheelchair basketball team. His passion for the game is exhibited by weekend travels and many trips around the country. This sort of dedication has earned him the respect both of his community and me. I would like to wish him the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Mr. John Gilbert for his accomplishments and inspiration to the 6th District of Missouri. His stellar leadership qualities, faith, and stamina provide the city of Fairfax, Missouri, with an outstanding role model. We are fortunate to have a young man representing this nation in competition who sets such high standards for character and integrity.